

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, you want the standard of the girls' school at Punalur to be raised to the middle school grade. It is not the policy of Government to open new departmental vernacular high schools and so an application from a private agency will be carefully considered. I do not know whether you made a formal application to the Director of Public Instruction. If you have not done so, I see no harm in your applying to him so that the question can be examined afresh, if necessary.

The question of a Munsiff—Magistrate's Court at Punalur must stand over till the redistribution of jurisdiction of courts is taken up and settled by the High Court.

In the matter of roads and culverts, these can come up before the Road Board which is going to be created shortly.

As regards your representations about the hospital at Punalore, I shall forward them to the Administrative Board, Medical Services.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2 P. M. and reassembled at 3 P. M.

82. Needs of the Shencotta taluk.

MR. A. P. SUBRAMONYA AIYER (*Member, Shencotta taluk*) dealt with the following needs of the Shencotta taluk : —

Two bridges should be constructed, one at Ayikudi over the Hanumannadi and the other at Samburvadakarai over the Periyar. A bridge at Ayikudi was absolutely necessary in the interests of the villagers of Ayikudi and Klangad who had to cross and recross the Hanumannadi many times a day. Moreover, with the opening of the railway station Valliamapuram to which an approach road was recently sanctioned from Ayikudi, the need of a bridge across the river had become all the more pressing. Another bridge was similarly necessary at Samburvadakarai. There was now a causeway at this place which was in an entirely dilapidated condition.

The Palaruvi water-supply scheme which was investigated by the Public Works Department several years ago should be taken up and worked without delay. The scheme would ensure an adequate supply of water for irrigating the whole of the Shencotta taluk, and the area under cultivation in the taluk could thereby be considerably extended.

Nanjamel Punja remissions should be allowed in respect of the Kanni crops in the Ayikudi, Klangad and Samburvadakarai *pakuthies*. The Kanni crops on the wet lands in these *pakuthies* often suffered from insufficiency of water. Consequently only dry cultivation was raised in these lands for the Kanni crop. But by some mistake the lands were classified as double-crop wet lands at the Settlement and assessment was made at a high rate. The ryots of Ayikudi, Klangad and Samburvadakarai applied for some remission in respect of these lands in 1082 and 1083; but the remission was allowed only for the year 1082. It was at the same time ordered that such remissions

could not be sanctioned as a general rule. Vide G. O. No. 4436/L. R. dated 22-4-1908 published on P. 44 of the Land Revenue Manual—Vol II. But the reasons given in that G. O. were all incorrect and the question merited re-consideration.

A lower grade secondary school should be established at Aiykudi, which, besides serving the immediate purpose of being a feeder school to the English High School, Shencotta, will in the long run give a strong impetus to the progress of education in the taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subramonia Iyer, in regard to the bridge over the Hanumannadi, the Chief Engineer has revised the plan, and estimates are under preparation in accordance with his new design. As to the bridge at Samburvadakara, I have addressed the British Government through the Agent to the Governor-General as to whether the authorities there will be prepared to construct a road leading from the farther end of the bridge. In the absence of such a road, heavy expenditure on the bridge will not be justified.

As for the Palaruvi scheme, the Chief Engineer has had an investigation made and as a result of it he finds that only about 4,000 acres of dry land can be converted into wet and 160 acres of channelled lands could be supplemented to bring up $1\frac{3}{4}$ acres-feet which is the extent of possible development of irrigation under the scheme. The cost is prohibitive and therefore he does not recommend that the scheme should be proceeded with. The results will be negligible compared to the heavy expenditure. Therefore he is unable to recommend its adoption by the Government. Hence the idea is given up.

In regard to the Nanjamel Punja tax remission, you seem to think that the lands in question fall under the rules for Nanjamel Punja remissions. Nanjamel Punja remission is only in respect of the cultivation of wet lands where the water supply fails occasionally owing to failure of the monsoon or shrinkage of rivers. Nanjamel Punja remission is not a thing of general standing, it is only seasonal. These lands in the villages of Ayikudi, Klangad and Samburvadakarai really fall under the heads of Bhattaviruthi and Brahmadayam lands which are subject only to very light assessment and the lands are well watered and the people choose to have dry cultivation instead of wet cultivation, that is to say grow other crops than paddy, because they find it more advantageous to do so. In any case there is already a standing arrangement. If any change is found to be necessary, I have no doubt that it will be done while the next re-settlement takes place. Until then this question should remain as it is.

In regard to the lower grade school, you ask the Government to alter their established policy in the matter of opening new schools. They are not opening any more departmental schools. Therefore if an application is addressed to the Director of Public Instruction for permission for a private body to open a school there it will be carefully considered. I might go so far as to say that it will be sympathetically considered.